



2015-16

California Dream Act Application

for High School Counselors & Practitioners

Frequently Asked Questions

AB 540

Q: What are the AB 540 eligibility requirements?

A:

- Have attended a CA high school for at least three years or graduated early from a CA high school with the equivalent of three or more years of credit*, AND
- Graduated from a CA high school, or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE), or obtained a Certificate of General Education Development (GED), AND
- Enrolled in an accredited and qualifying CA college or university, AND
- If applicable, complete(d) an affidavit to legalize immigration status as soon as you are eligible.

**If students graduated early from high school under this provision, they must also have attended CA schools (elementary and secondary) for a cumulative total of three or more years.*

DEFERRED ACTION OR DACA

Q: What is Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA?

A: DACA is a federal program that defers removal action by USCIS for a specified number of years. DACA students may be eligible for a social security card that states, "Valid for work only with DHS authorization."

DACA AND THE FAFSA

Q: Should students use their DACA SSN to complete the FAFSA?

A: No. Since DACA students are ineligible for federal aid, they must complete the CA Dream Act application to be considered for CA state financial aid. If you have a Dream applicant who completed the FAFSA, please contact Institutional Support for assistance by phone at 888-294-0153 or email at schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

MALES MUST REGISTER FOR SELECTIVE SERVICE

Q: How do CA Dream Act applicants register for the Selective Service?

A: Male students between the ages of 18 to 25 can now select the “Register me” check box on Question 23 to be registered with the Selective Service.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – CAHSEE

Q: If the student has the CAHSEE exams pending and has only passed the graduation requirements, can they still complete a Dream Act Application?

A: Yes the student can still complete a CA Dream Act Application, however the student is still required to meet all high school graduation requirements include passing the CAHSEE in order to be eligible for Cal Grant payment. For the 2014-15 academic year, the student will need to pass the exams by December 31, 2014.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL PROFICIENCY EXAM (CHSPE)

Q: For question 26 on the application, if a student passed the CHSPE, how would they respond?

A: The student would select “High School Diploma”. The student would have received a high school diploma if graduating from high school was met by passing the CHSPE. Just a reminder, students who have passed the CHSPE and do not have a GPA to submit must submit their SAT or ACT test scores by the March 2nd deadline to be eligible for Cal Grant award consideration.

APPLICATION

Q: When will the 2015-16 CA Dream Act application be available?

A: The online and paper application will be available January 1, 2015. For faster processing time, the Commission recommends using the online application process.

Q: Can students make changes/corrections to an application?

A: Yes. Students can make changes/corrections to an application with the exception of the name and date of birth. The CA Student Aid Commission is the only authorized agency to make name and date of birth changes. The Name/Date of Birth Change Request form (G-19), can be found on the CA Dream Act Resources Page under the Students and Parents tab.

Q: What is the purpose of the timer?

A: The 30-minute timer is a security feature that protects the confidentiality of the application in the event the student is working on a shared or public computer. Each time a student clicks on the “Save Application” icon, he or she will be given an additional 30 minutes to complete the application.

Q: What happens if the timer runs out?

A: When the timer gets down to the two minute mark, a pop-up will appear reminding students to save the application for an additional 30-minutes. If students do not click on the “Save Application” button, the timer will run out and information not saved will be lost, and the student will automatically be logged out of the application.

INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (ITIN)

Q: Why does the application ask for the parental or student (ITIN)?

A: ITINs are issued by the IRS and are used for federal tax reporting only. Some parents and independent students use ITINs to file taxes. The Commission will not share this information with other agencies or organizations.

UNMARRIED PARENTS LIVING TOGETHER

Q: For unmarried parents living together, should the student report the income for both parents?

A: Yes. Dependent students are required to include the income of both parents.

Q: Does the application have a section for unmarried parents not living together?

A: Yes. Students should answer the questions about the parent they live with the most during the 12 months preceding the application date. If they do not live with one parent more than the other, give answers about the parent who provides the most financial support.

INCOME

Q: If parents or independent students are paid wages in the form of cash, are they required to list it on the application?

A: Yes. If parents or students do not file a tax return, cash earnings must be reported on the application.

ESTIMATING PARENTAL AND STUDENT INCOME

Q: Can students submit an application before filing a tax return?

A: Yes. Students can complete an application by using an estimated income. Once the tax return has been completed, he or she can update the application. Each time a dependent student makes a change to the application, the parent must sign the application using the parent PIN. If the parent does not resign the application, it will be placed in a "hold/unprocessed" status.

PARENT PIN

Q: Does a parent need a valid SSN to electronically sign the application?

A: No. A valid SSN is not required to obtain a parent PIN.

Q: Will the parent need a new PIN for each student?

A: Yes, the parent must obtain a new PIN for each student, and use that pin each year to renew the application.

Q: Do students sign using a PIN?

A: No. Students will not sign the application using a PIN.

CONFIRMATION PAGE AND CAL SAR REPORT

Q: Where can I find a student's Confirmation Page?

A: From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," select "Dream Act ISIR Search," and enter at least two fields or enter the Dream ID, and click "search," identify the student, select the "Confirmation View" link to the right.

Q: Where can I find a student's Cal SAR Report?

A: From the Portal menu, click on "CA Dream Act," click on "Dream Act ISIR Search," and enter at least two fields or enter the Dream ID, and click "search," identify the student, select the "Cal SAR Report" link to the right.

CAL GRANTS

Q: Are CA Dream Act students eligible for Cal Grant award consideration?

A: *Yes. CA Dream Act students can qualify for Cal Grant A, B, or C. They must submit an application and a non-SSN school-certified GPA to the CA Student Aid Commission by the March 2, 2015 deadline. Students will be considered for renewal as long as a new application is submitted each year before the deadline, the income and asset requirements are met, and the student is maintaining SAP.*

REPORTS

Q: Do any of the WebGrants reports list the names of the students?

A: *The Non-SSN GPA Roster Report and the GPA Summary Reports will list all submitted students.*

Q: How early can we run the reports that will indicate if a GPA and a Financial Application has been submitted?

A: *The existing GPA reports are available now. The new Student Support Report is a combination of three (3) separate reports. This report combines the GPA Summary, Financial Application (No GPA), and School of Origin Report. This report is available now, but will be updated when the awarding cycle begin sometime in February. This report is updated weekly and will available every Monday.*

SB 1210 DREAM LOAN

Q: What is the purpose of the Dream loan?

A: *SB 1210 establishes the California DREAM Loan Program (CDLP) for purposes of extending loans to students who meet the requirements established by AB 540 and have financial need, and authorizes any campus of the UC/CSU to participate.*

Q: How will my school know if the student is interested in a Dream loan?

A: *Question 31 on the CA Dream Act application asks the student, "Are you interested in student loans?" The student selects, "Yes, No, or Don't Know."*